From the Director

Robin Wagner, Director, Musselman Library

There is much talk in library circles these days about the library being more than a warehouse for books and journals or a quiet place to study. Modern libraries are gathering places for students. They are places to compute, collaborate and experiment with the latest digital technologies. They are home to special collections, archives and artifacts – providing endless independent research possibilities.

The new library is sometimes a lecture hall or art gallery or classroom. In the case of Musselman Library, it even doubles as a concert hall (see page 6 for an upcoming music event). How many libraries do you know that have a grand piano in its apse and music stands stored in its administrative offices!

More and more, library space and place is defined by the users, not the director.

One faculty member regularly holds his office hours in the library – in the evening – when students are most likely to be about. Groups congregate on the main floor, pulling tables together and creating little “study-group islands.” Notes one library custodian: “There isn’t much point in worrying about the furniture being moved all around! Students will rearrange the chairs and tables to suit what they are working on.”

Reference librarians and circulation staff preside over this hum of activity. The library is a dynamic

(Continued on page 3)

COLLEGE ACQUIRES EISENHOWER CORRESPONDENCE

Gettysburg College has acquired 63 letters between Dwight D. Eisenhower and Dillon Anderson, his Special Assistant for National Security in 1955-56. This correspondence ranges from friendly notes about family to letters regarding issues of national security, restructuring the Defense Department, foreign affairs, Laos and Vietnam. Also included in the collection are 100 pages of Anderson’s personal papers related to conversations and correspondence with Eisenhower.

The Anderson/Eisenhower Collection was purchased from a private collector with the help of several major contributors: the Friends of Musselman Library, Jacob and Genevieve Yingling, the Eisenhower Society and the Eisenhower Institute of Gettysburg College.

“These letters were not previously available to scholars,” says Dan DeNicola, the College’s Vice President for Program Development. “Already one student, Jessica Haines, has written a senior thesis in history that draws in part upon these letters.

(Continued on page 2)
In 2002 Jacob “Jake” Yingling established an endowment to support Special Collections. Recently, the Yingling family visited Musselman Library to make an additional contribution to the endowment and celebrate the purchase of the Dillon Anderson/Dwight D. Eisenhower Collection, made possible, in part, by this fund.

Jake, Class of 1952, and his wife, Genevieve “Genny” have a multi-generational commitment to Gettysburg College. Genny, a native of Central Pennsylvania, helped Jake get through his college days. They later sent their two sons, Steve ’73 and Randy ’81 to Gettysburg College.

But it hardly ends there. Both sons married fellow Gettysburgians – Steve to Cindy Eni ’79, and Randy to Marianne Miller ’79. Now Randy and Marianne’s two children are at the college – Tyler, a senior, and Randall “Randy,” who is in her first year.

So it truly was a full-circle moment when Jake asked his grandson Tyler to present the check to the archivist, Karen Drickamer. Jake said he invited his grandchildren to the ceremony to impress upon them the importance of gratitude and generosity. As he wrote in his autobiography, “Don’t we owe each new generation a chance to grow beyond their roots?”

“Tyler and Randy are fortunate to see their grandparents’ philanthropy in action and to learn firsthand the importance of investing back into an organization that is meaningful to you and shapes your life,” remarked Ashlyn Sowell, Interim Assistant Vice President for Development.

**Eisenhower Correspondence** *(Continued from page 1)*

“In addition, a letter in which Eisenhower reflects on the future of the Republican Party was used as the basis for a recent address by Susan Eisenhower to the Eisenhower Institute’s *Symposium on the Future of Political Parties.*”

Other collection highlights include:

- July 24, 1957: letter from Anderson about oil imports and exports, and Eisenhower’s reply justifying why the West would have to use force in the Mid-East to maintain supplies,
- May 5, 1958: letter from Eisenhower listing his plans for reorganizing the Defense Department,
- April 5, 1967: letter in which Eisenhower wrote that if a man like Anderson had been [in Washington] the abysmal failure of the Bay of Pigs would not have occurred.

These letters and another collection of correspondence will soon be on public display for the celebration and open house at the newly-renovated facilities for the Eisenhower Institute at 157 N. Washington St. (Watch your mail for details).

“The presence of these letters on campus attracted the offer of a special exhibit of another collection of Eisenhower letters from the organization called America’s History,” says DeNicola. “These include over 140 letters from Ike to his brother, Edgar.”

Because of the significant content of the Eisenhower-Anderson letters, they will represent a continuing resource for research and scholarship sponsored by the Eisenhower Institute, the library and various academic departments.

*(See related story “Who was Dillion Anderson” on page 3)*
Dillon Anderson (1906-1974) was a lawyer, statesman and writer. He was a partner in a Houston law firm prior to serving as a colonel in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945 and won the Army Commendation Ribbon and the Legion of Merit.

Eisenhower appointed him as a consultant to the National Security Council in 1953 and as his special assistant for national security in 1955. In that capacity, Anderson presided over the National Security Council and was an essential facilitator of the decision-making system and accompanied Eisenhower to the Geneva Summit conference in 1955.

“Anderson writes engagingly about Ike’s management style and rebuts the notion that he was not in charge of negotiations and running the security apparatus generally,” says Michael Birkner, Eisenhower scholar and professor of history, about some of the correspondence.

Anderson resigned in 1956 and went on to become a director of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, a trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a member of the Texas Institute of Letters.
In photographs they wear stylish dresses with long full skirts and elaborately fashioned hats. In the classroom they were always prepared, recited well and held their own among a sea of young men. They were Cora Hartman and Margaret Himes, the first women students at Gettysburg College.

At a recent Friends of Musselman Library lecture, Anna Jane Moyer, Librarian Emerita and author of To Waken Fond Memory: Moments in the History of Gettysburg College, described what life was like for Cora and Margaret after the College opened its doors to women in 1888.

“It was a time when only three percent of Americans attended college and female students were a rarity,” said Moyer, who met Cora when she moved to Gettysburg in 1961.

When Cora and Margaret matriculated in 1890, tuition was approximately $20 per term. There were no activities for women at Gettysburg, who were considered to be in a separate division from the main “men’s” college, and they did not live on campus. They did have a small room in Glatfelter Hall where they could hang their coats, leave books, study and chat with other female day students.

Cora and Margaret studied a range of subjects from elocution, composition, history and declamation to chemistry, astronomy, botany, geometry and modern geography. Students were expected to master Greek, Latin and English Grammar. Books by Caesar, Virgil and Cicero were common texts.

Both women excelled. Margaret was the designated class poet, wrote the class song in 1894 and was honored as valedictorian at graduation. Cora took a rigorous course of studies in Classics and wrote the Ivy Day poem which commemorated the tradition of students planting ivy on campus as a way of being remembered.

Except for being good students, however, the two women were quite different. As Moyer explained, “Cora came from a farming family in Mummasburg. She was an only child of a Civil War veteran, who wanted his only child to have an education.” She lived at Pitzer’s Boarding House at 124 Chambersburg Street during the week and traveled home by horse each weekend. She was 23 when she graduated.

Margaret was only 14 when she arrived at Gettysburg and had graduated by age 18. She came from a long line of academics and was surrounded by books from a young age. Her father, John, a graduate of the Class of 1870, was a recognized Milton scholar. He taught English language and literature and served as the College librarian.

Margaret’s grandfather, Charles Augustus Hay, was also a Gettysburg graduate (Class of 1839) and was the second professor hired at the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary. Hay, who became a College trustee, was very instrumental in lobbying for women’s admittance.

After graduation, both women went on to lead very interesting lives and stayed in touch with their alma mater. Cora married Harvey Berkey, Class of 1892, and Margaret married Julius Seebach, also a student.

Margaret became the editor of Lutheran Women’s Work, a publication of the Women’s Missionary Society, and wrote 14 books and monographs relevant to a Lutheran readership. In 1943, five years before her death, she became the first woman to receive an honorary degree from Gettysburg College.

Cora lived to see Gettysburg become fully coed in 1935. She retired to Gettysburg and traveled extensively overseas after her husband’s death.

To learn more about these women and the history of Gettysburg College, stop by the Library to see the 175th Anniversary Exhibit on the main floor. You can also purchase Moyer’s book at the College Bookstore or by calling 1-800-337-6367.
This semester, Musselman Library is celebrating the life and career of the renowned soprano, Lillian Blauvelt with the exhibit “Lillian Blauvelt: From Brooklyn to Buckingham Palace.” During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Blauvelt sang on concert and opera stages around the world, including command performances for England’s Queen Victoria and Italy’s Queen Margherita.

Through photographs, concert programs, press clippings and personal artifacts, the exhibit highlights Blauvelt’s many successes. These include performances in such famous venues as Carnegie Hall, Covent Garden Opera House and the Crystal Palace in London. She also did recordings for the Columbia and Victor Talking Machine companies that you can hear using an iPod (available at the Circulation Desk).

The coming together of this exhibit was purely serendipitous. A few years ago, Music Librarian Tim Sestrick was in downtown Gettysburg posting notices for a music performance at the Library. He struck up a conversation with an interested stranger, Dorothy Blauvelt Ralson. Ralson mentioned Blauvelt, her very famous ancestor, and the idea bloomed.

Ralson connected Sestrick to Deborah Middleswart, Blauvelt’s great-great-grandniece and owner of the materials on display. In February, Middleswart traveled from Maine with eight members of her family to attend the exhibit-opening concert, which drew an audience of about 100.

Sponsored by the Friends of Musselman Library, the concert featured Kathleen Sasnett, Sunderman Conservatory of Music Associate Professor of Voice and Opera, accompanied by Professor of Music Mark Hansen. The concert, part of the Library’s Notes at Noon series, included a number of opera arias sung by Blauvelt during her lifetime.

You can learn more about this exhibit by visiting the Library’s exhibit web page (www.gettysburg.edu/library/news/exhibits). There you can play a short video that Sestrick created about Blauvelt’s life. The exhibit is located on the main floor and will run until June.
Recently, two Gettysburg College students sat listening to a lecture. Inspired, the students began whispering about how to apply ideas presented to their own projects. A typical classroom experience, right?

Not exactly! The students were Beth Boisvert and Katie MacKellar, the Library’s Fortenbaugh Music Interns, and they were attending the Music Library Association Annual Conference in Pittsburgh.

With support from the Provost’s office, Boisvert and MacKellar had the rare opportunity to join Music Librarian Tim Sestrick and hundreds of other professional librarians in exploring current issues in music, technology and libraries.

Boisvert and MacKellar, both juniors majoring in voice, came away from the conference with plenty of new ideas. According to MacKellar, “I learned about many ways librarians are trying to meet students on their own level…this conference was really interesting for me because it gave me a glimpse of what I might want to do with my future.”

Boisvert was impressed by the many vendor displays at the conference: “to think that the books and CDs there were only one step away from our own library!”

Both interns are currently working on a number of Library projects, including designing an online tutorial for finding music resources. Earlier this semester they helped prepare the music exhibit “Lillian Blauvelt: From Brooklyn to Buckingham Palace,” and contributed to a presentation for the exhibit’s opening concert.

Music Students
Listen to the Classics

Musselman Library recently completed a major new resource for music theory and education students—an online listening library of nearly 80 musical works, including over 350 individual sound files. The library includes orchestral music as well as opera, musical theater, chamber music and jazz, and is available through Angel, the online classroom system.

The pieces were chosen by Sharon Gratto, Professor of Music and Coordinator of Music Education in the Sunderman Conservatory of Music. “It is essential for future music educators to be familiar with a core body of standard repertoire from which they can draw to create lessons,” said Gratto.

“It is also important for music majors and minors in the first year theory curriculum to know the context for some of the sight-singing examples they have in their textbooks,” she added. “I’m delighted students now have ready access to these pieces.”

Percussion Music
FEATURED ON APRIL 16

The next Notes at Noon concert is on Monday, April 16. Join us for a concert of solo percussion and chamber music. Music Librarian (and Sunderman Conservatory of Music Adjunct Instructor of Percussion), Tim Sestrick will be joined by faculty performers Paul Austerlitz, Ed Stanley, Jocelyn Swigger and Bret Crawford. The concert will feature percussion instruments from around the world, along with works by composers from Japan, Serbia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic and the United States.

The free one-hour concert starts at noon in the Library’s main floor apse. Bring your lunch!
Carrol Hoover, Senior Administrative Assistant in the Counseling Services Office, is the featured artist in this spring’s “Hidden Talents” series. Fifteen of her watercolors are on display in the Library’s Browsing Room. Although Hoover experiments with various subjects, her “passion” is for flowers and landscapes, which are featured in this, her first exhibit.

Hoover, who is about to celebrate her 20th anniversary at the College, discovered her watercolor talent in 1998 when a friend convinced her to take a class at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC).

“My mother had died and I wanted to do something significant in her memory,” explains Hoover. “She was an artist who, for the most part, did not find encouragement to pursue her talents.”

Hoover had previously explored her creativity through a variety of mediums – from needlework to ceramics, but she had never put a brush to canvas.

“At first, I was terrified at the thought of painting...” says Hoover, “but our instructor assured us that ‘older’ watercolor artists had a much easier time learning to use the medium – something about being more patient and being able to let go.”

She says she was “immediately hooked,” and continued to take classes at both HACC and Gettysburg College. Although she has sold some pieces, she doesn’t want to turn her art into a commercial venture. “I’m doing this for my enjoyment; to make it a business would rob me of the joy.”

“I am really excited about the exhibit,” says Hoover. “It is a milestone to have this recognition.”

Musselman Library teamed up with the College’s Writing House and Wellness Committee for a community book discussion on April 10 and a campus visit by the author on April 16. Featured was the Hemingway Foundation/PEN award-winning novel and ALA Notable Book of the Year, Native Speaker, by Chang-rae Lee.

Says Publishers Weekly: “Espionage acts as a metaphor for the uneasy relationship of Amerasians to American society in this eloquent, thought-provoking tale of a young Korean-American’s struggle to conjoin the fragments of his personality in culturally diverse New York City.”

Asian Studies professor, Leo Yip, led the book discussion.
Yes, these were actual Gettysburg College rules, and they are part of the fun exhibit of memorabilia that Musselman Library has compiled to celebrate the College’s 175th anniversary.

Four display cases on the main floor (apse) contain glimpses of early years on the campus. The case titled G-Books & Student Life includes rules like those listed above.

Another case highlights Women at Gettysburg and the first female graduates, Cora Hartman and Margaret Himes (see article page 4). May I Have This Dance? features campus events from early Interfraternity dances to the fund-raising Dance Marathon of 1977. And, of course, there is a case titled The Library Grows with the College!

Surrounding the cases are 12 framed photographs selected from the first 100 years of the College. These archival images are part of a collection that can be viewed electronically in the Historic Photographs of Gettysburg College section under the GettDigital link on the Library’s homepage.

In addition there is a two-case exhibit near the reference desk celebrating milestone anniversary editions of The Spectrum. Did you know that in 1892, the College yearbook listed the height and weight of all freshmen? This is just one of the fun tidbits you’ll discover as part of the 175th Anniversary celebration exhibits.

So, shave that moustache or take out those curlers, then stop by to enjoy the Library’s “scrapbook.” Just stay off the grass!
Clockwise from the left: Graduates of the Class of 1907; Football Team, 1896; Gettysburg College Marching Band, circa 1924; Student social gathering, 1908; Illustration from the 1893 Spectrum for the Pitzer House boarding club; Students in dorm room of Cottage Hall, 1914; Society of the Bald Heads, smallpox epidemic, 1903; Sheet music for We Are Here to Cheer (The Orange and the Blue), words by Ralph P. Lewars, ’03
The number of Civil War Era images in Musselman Library’s digital collection continues to grow. Recently, an album of the 1861 U.S. Military Academy – West Point graduating class was added.

Originally the album belonged to one of those graduates, William H. Harris; now it is online for everyone to view. You can see photographs of these students and some manuscript notations detailing the fate of many of these men, including George Armstrong Custer and Patrick H. O’Rorke.

This GettDigital Civil War Era collection began several years ago with over 300 political cartoons from publications of that time such as Harper’s Weekly. In September 2006, efforts began to expand this snapshot of the Civil War Era political world with personal papers, letters, pamphlets, photographs and other primary source materials.

Some items being considered next for digitization are Civil War Era maps, sheet music, paintings of the Gettysburg battlefield from 1866 by artist George Leo Frankenstein, and publications from the New England Loyal Publication Society.

To view the collection, go to the Library’s GettDigital web page: www.gettysburg.edu/library/gettdigital and select Civil War Era Collection. To see just the class album, search on “West Point Album.”

Musselman Library is also partnering with the University of Richmond Library to seek an Institute of Museum and Library Services planning grant to develop a central web site that would allow users to search all the online digital collections of Civil War Era materials at once.

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**Brian Lovett**

1956-2006

Brian Lovett, night circulation supervisor, passed away on December 25, 2006. Brian served Gettysburg College as a Safety and Security officer for 24 years and began working at the Library last fall.

Students said Brian made the Library feel like a home-away-from-home on those late nights when they worked to finish research papers or study for exams. With his friendly smile and warm personality, he used every occasion to connect with students, lend an ear and offer sympathy or advice. Brian was a friend and confidant to several generations of college students and a well-respected colleague, whom we all miss.
In 2004, Musselman Library was searching for Asian Art historians to write descriptions for the many treasures in Special Collections that were to be digitized. Little did we know that one of the greatest treasures that would come from this project was a tiny woman donning a nun’s habit and a perpetual smile.

While her careful work, lovingly and knowledgably describing each piece of art, will live on, we have lost Cuc Nguyen herself. Earlier this year, she succumbed to cancer.

“Cuc was a delightful, insightful, knowledgeable scholar who brought a sense of wonder and enthusiasm to her work,” said Karen Drickamer, Director of Special Collections and College Archivist.

During the summers of 2004 and 2005, Cuc traveled from her California home to live on campus and catalogue hundreds of pieces of rare art. Her descriptive words went beyond the facts and presented the art in a way that engaged the viewer in a sense of wonder and delight.

“She brought a vast knowledge, well-developed research skills and the instincts of a good teacher to our project,” said Drickamer. “She taught us all about our collection. Her descriptions are thorough, instructive and engaging.”

Cuc’s enthusiasm drew people to her, which was why most were surprised to learn of her oppressive background. A native of Vietnam, Cuc had become a Buddhist nun at an early age. After struggling to survive the hardships of the Vietnam War, she spent several years living in seclusion in the mountains as part of her spiritual journey.

Cuc also had a love of art and education. She studied French literature and earned degrees from College Francais Nhatrang and the University of Saigon. In 1992, after her father’s release from an internment camp, her family came to America. Cuc continued her studies in California where she earned a B.F.A. in Fine Arts and a M.A. in Asian Studies. She was finishing a Ph.D. in Art History at the time of her death.

She was herself an artist and worked in many media: Chinese calligraphy and painting, batik, oil painting, watercolor, photography and more. She once said that “art is one of the most beautiful forms in human expressions.”

Cuc’s love of art enriched our Library. Her love of life enriched our lives. We miss her.

You may have noticed that in the past few years, Musselman Library has presented a wide range of programming for the community – exhibits, music, lectures, group reading and more. Traditionally, this type of outreach has been the domain of public libraries; but increasingly, academic libraries are playing a role in community enrichment as well.

“We are no longer a warehouse for books and a hideaway for quiet study,” said Meggan Smith who coordinates the Library’s events. “Musselman Library has a thriving outreach program – last year alone we hosted over 25 programs.”

This April, Musselman Library will join several Pennsylvania colleges in a symposium about effective outreach programs. “We’re very excited about this,” said Musselman Librarian Cinda Gibbon, one of the conference organizers. “In today’s society, a community changes almost before our eyes; a library must be dynamic to keep pace.”
Do you have memories of treasured childhood books – the kind that kept you secretly reading past your bed time conjuring images more vivid than any movie? Well Musselman Library hasn’t forgotten those magical books either. There are dozens of these antiquarian gems in Special Collections; and almost 900 award-winning children’s books in general circulation.

Over the years, the Library has received gifts of rare children’s books including first editions from the 1800s, such as Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*. There are also several of Frank Baum’s *Oz* books, *The Rover Boys* series and much more.

Recently, Jan Powers, Professor Emerita of Interdisciplinary and Women’s Studies, donated two titles that had belonged to her mother, Maureen Jones Powers. *The Belgian Twins* by Lucy Fitch Perkins was published in 1917 and is the story of a Belgian family that must flee their homeland during World War I. The other is *The Story of the Marys* by Grace Humphrey, published in 1923.

“It contains chapters about different famous women named Mary,” says Powers. “It is an early feminist publishing effort, including a chapter on Mary Lyon, who helped found Mount Holyoke College and Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot).”

Special Collections also houses the books and manuscripts of noted alumni children’s authors Jerry Spinelli ’63, Nancy Springer ’70 and Jen Bryant ’82.

Other contemporary titles, primarily Newberry and Caldecott winners, are available in the stacks on the third floor (call number LT1000).

The Library won’t mind if you stay up past your bedtime in order to check them out!

Illustrations from the following two books, gifts of Thomas Y. Cooper.

*Les Contes de Perrault*, ca. 1890.

*Andersen’s Fairy Tales*, 1884. [Cover image]

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**A DRILL TEAM IN THE LIBRARY?**

Musselman Library is embarking on a new tradition: its very own Book Cart Drill Team! You may be asking yourself what that is, exactly.… Imagine a combination of marching band and drill team performing synchronized movements to music while pushing book carts (that are decorated, of course!).

While attending the American Library Association’s Annual Meeting this past summer, librarian Janelle Wertzberger witnessed the 2nd Annual Book Cart Drill Team World Championship. Amazed by the precision of the librarians as they moved in formation, and inspired by the contagiously fun atmosphere, Wertzberger decided it was something that Musselman Library shouldn’t miss.

Her idea met with an enthusiastic response and a dozen participants are starting to practice for the upcoming competition in Washington, D.C., on June 24th. Keep your eyes open for a follow-up article on our performance in the fall newsletter.

*Illustration by Sneha Shrestha, Class of 2010.*
The main stairwell in Musselman Library is more than just a means of reaching additional floors; it is a passage for learning and discovery through the exhibits that populate its walls. This semester you can venture to the Far East via the colorful photographic exhibit “Faces of Singapore.”

The exhibit comprises images taken by Gettysburg College students and their professor, VoonChin Phua, during a visit to Singapore last summer. In order to convey a sense of the culture, students selected photographs of native cuisine, city life and the national “Hungry Ghost Festival” for the exhibit.

“The photographs of the city were ones that we felt portrayed typical scenes,” wrote Jason Loh, in a Gettysburgian article about the project. “We did not want to display photos of tourist attractions because those have been done many times.”

Plans for the trip to Singapore actually began in fall 2005 when, under the guidance of Phua, an Assistant Professor of Sociology/Anthropology, students applied for a grant through ASIANetwork. That spring they were selected from 25 applicant groups to receive funding.

By summer, the group was traveling around the island country. Upon returning to campus, the work continued. In addition to the exhibit, students are collaborating on a writing project.

“Faces of Singapore” will be on display until May 2007. You can also view the exhibit on the Library’s web site (www.gettysburg.edu/library/news/exhibits).

In 1985, the College formed the Commission on Women to advise the President on issues pertinent to the role, status and education of women. They reported on child care needs, equity, faculty recruitment, minority climate, maternity/parental leave and more.

This semester, Krystal Thomas ’07, the Esther Kenyon Fortenbaugh Intern, is organizing the Commission’s papers for Special Collections. Thomas began the project by tackling a cubic foot of unprocessed materials in Special Collections. “She will also search College records for additional resources and prepare for a major ‘records call’ to past members of the Commission,” said Karen Drickamer, Director of Special Collections.

Thomas is an English major and Women’s Studies minor from Baldwinsville, NY. She sees her internship as an opportunity to explore the field of archival work. She said, “It is practical experience not only for graduate school, but also in preparing me to enter the work force on an academic level.”
FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY:
Fund Honors Professor Who Inspired a Love of Literature

With the help of generous donors, Musselman Library is able to create an atmosphere that inspires not just research and study, but also a love of reading. A wonderful example is the Edward J. Baskerville Memorial Fund that helps supply the Browsing Room with an ever-expanding selection of contemporary literature.

“This Fund has helped bring award-winning and contemporary fiction to the shelves of Musselman Library,” says Kerri Odess-Harnish, Reference & Instruction Librarian. “The Browsing Room encourages recreational reading as a means of personal discovery, self-education, and to hopefully spark discussion – as all good books do.”

The fund was established in recognition of Edward “Ted” Baskerville, a beloved English professor at the College from 1956 to 1997.

“Baskerville was a witty and erudite teacher who could bring the best out of students,” says his former student Michael Birkner, ’72, now a Gettysburg College Professor of History. “His work as Gettysburgian adviser for two decades was as instrumental as his classroom teaching in developing the sensibilities of his charges and honing their writing skills. He was an original, that’s for sure.”

In 2001 several of Baskerville’s former students decided this endowment would be a fitting tribute to a man whose influence on their lives went well beyond the classroom. Since then, many other students and colleagues have also contributed, making it the Library’s largest active donor fund.

“Contributing to the Fund helps to keep my memories of Ted vital and keen,” says Janet Stavropoulos, ’67, a lawyer in Indiana. “During my undergraduate days as an English major, he was my valued professor and mentor, with a deep humanity and discipline in his approach to the study and teaching of Medieval and Renaissance English literature. He transfixed us all. He opened my eyes to the possibility of a career dedicated to teaching and scholarship in the field.”

Baskerville continued playing a role in Stavropoulos’ life after graduation. After earning graduate degrees in English, she returned to Gettysburg and became his colleague in the English Department. “During those years, he consistently supported and encouraged my development as a teacher and scholar. I also gained a closer appreciation of how he worked his unique magic in the classroom, and I enjoyed his friendship and that of Dr. Mary Baskerville (his wife). Mary remains my very special friend to this day.”

Nancy Di Blasi Wennberg ’78, an Administrative Assistant to the President of Harrisburg Area Community College, and her husband, Steven J. Wennberg ’78, an attorney, met while working together at the Gettysburgian under Baskerville’s tutelage.

“Ted was an enormous influence on both of us,” says Nancy. “I’m so glad to know that the library has been able to do so much with the Baskerville Memorial.”

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—Janet Stavropoulos ’67


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—Janet Stavropoulos ’67

To contribute to the Baskerville Fund, or learn about establishing a library fund to honor a colleague or friend or commemorate a loved one, please contact library director, Robin Wagner at rowagner@gettysburg.edu.
This semester 40 students donned white gloves and face masks and set about rummaging through boxes of “stuff.” No, they weren’t cleaning their dorm. These were history students and their assignment was to make sense of the accumulation of one scholar’s lifetime.

Homer Tope Rosenberger (1908-1982) spent his life independently studying Pennsylvania history. It was his wish that his materials ultimately be used by students and scholars who shared his passion. These documents found their way to Gettysburg College where they have been stored awaiting processing and cataloging. It is a very big job.

Enter the students from two sections of the Historical Methods class. They reported to the College archives where each was assigned a large box of the unsorted papers.

“This was their opportunity to work like archivists and think like historians,” says Robin Wagner, Library Director. “Each student had to delve into a portion of this very large collection and make sense of it.”

Over the course of three weeks, students scanned everything in their boxes, read the material that most interested them, created an inventory for box contents and wrote about their findings.

“The most interesting part of this project was trying to understand the personality of Homer Rosenberger,” says Stephen Kaiser, Class of 2009. “This man was obsessed with things that everyone else would disregard. Rosenberger left these materials as a way of educating and I think that is admirable. I enjoyed rummaging through his complicated, entertaining mind.”

Michael Birkner, the professor who assigned this project concurs, “There are interesting nuggets and it is important for the students to mine them. In one case, I particularly liked a student’s sensitivity to cultural context, noting that certain phrases and depictions that were once quite acceptable no longer are—thank goodness.”

The project was challenging. College Archivist Karen Drickamer says there was no typical box, “First and foremost, Rosenberger clipped and saved. He sent away for things in the mail and saved. He got invitations and correspondence and saved.”

The elements in each box range widely, from information on railroad history to the Pennsylvania prison system to world history. Materials might touch on organizations that Rosenberger belonged to (such as the Pennsylvania Historical Association and the Pennsylvania German Society), local colleges, and Pennsylvania towns and counties.

Says student Andrew Royer, Class of 2009, “...by sorting through this box of old papers, I was learning about a man’s life that I had never met. While I might not have learned much about his early years, or who he was good friends with, I did learn what his passions were.

“I learned about his passion for the study of transportation due to his massive collection of research notes and materials. I discovered his involvement in the Pennsylvania Prison Society and his obvious care for the proper treatment of the incarcerated and their families.”

Drickamer says she and her staff appreciate the students’ work. “They have helped us enormously by making a first pass through each box and listing the contents. Eventually an archivist will go through this collection and process it—joining the many threads together.”

All agree that the class got to experience what an archivist does on a daily basis. Royer’s description sums this best:

“I had to make connections as I attempted to find something of importance in what most people would consider a pile of old useless papers. It was definitely a challenge as I had to look at things in a different way than I normally would. I had to think like a real historian and not just take the face value, but the historical value, of one particular report in a stack of 20, or the front cover of a program. This project made me feel like a real historian for the first time, and not just a student writing about history.”

“That’s the point,” says Birkner. “In reading their papers, I think the students attacked the assignment with the right spirit and got out of it what I had hoped—an appreciation for the collector, and for working through the ‘stuff’ of history. They began thinking as historians. They did well.”

Lyle Roser, Class of 2009, wears a mask and gloves just like an archivist would as he sifts through a box of the Homer Rosenberger papers in Special Collections.
The generous contributions of Friends have allowed Musselman Library to go shopping. Our cart was filled with some wonderful treasures – letters written by brothers in the Civil War, a Civil War soldier's diary, early Pennsylvania maps, and a manuscript from an 1870 alumnus.

“We were able to purchase a wonderful collection of 45 letters from two brothers writing home from the Civil War to their family in Pennsylvania,” says Karen Drickamer, Director of Special Collections and College Archivist. “The letters were written by the Burlew brothers to their family in Atkinson Mills (Mifflin County), Pennsylvania.” John (Company K, 49th Pennsylvania Regiment) and Aaron (Company F, 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry) penned a total of 145 pages, dating from 1861 to 1864.

Here is a sample (transcribed as is) from Aaron Burlew to his sister, Carrie, written from Winchester, VA on June 10th, 1863:

“This cruel war has called off a great many young and noble men. The late battle on the Rapahmook was a great slaughter of brave and noble men to no purpose. I think if the army of the Potomac had their old commander George McClelland again he could lead them to victory for I think that every soldier brest fills with patriotism at the sound of Geroge B’s name. For my part I wish he was in command of the army of the Potomac.

A second set of letters written by brothers was also purchased. James R. Morrison (Company D, 42nd Pennsylvania Regiment) and William (1st Pennsylvania Rifles) wrote 12 letters (totaling 39 pages, dated 1862-1865) to their family in Titusville (Crawford County), Pennsylvania about camp life, battles, and more.

Another Pennsylvania soldier penned his thoughts about the war in a 41-page diary covering six months of fighting. Corporal Benjamin C. Dawney (Company H. 126th Pennsylvania and later an officer in the 127th PA Colored Regiment) was from Fannettsburg and “made good entries about the battle,” according to Drickamer.

Two early Pennsylvania maps were also purchased. The first was from 1811. It is a rare, separately issued map from Reading Howell’s seminal map of Pennsylvania, first issued in 1792 (illustration above).

The second map was of Pennsylvania & New Jersey by Henry S. Tanner in 1823. It was produced as a plate in the fourth part of Tanner’s New American Atlas which began in 1818. This atlas established Tanner as the leading American cartographic publisher.

Finally, Drickamer purchased the manuscript notebooks of John A. Himes, Class of 1870 and a Graeff Professor of English Literature and Political Science, 1873-1914. These are Himes’ lecture notes on Milton’s Paradise Lost, which became part of his 1878 book, A Study of Milton’s Paradise Lost.

Once these items are cataloged, they will be available for public viewing in Special Collections.

Life is busy, but don’t let that keep you from enjoying a good book along the way. Musselman Library has added audio books (books on CD) to the library’s Browsing Room collection. There are about 100 titles that include popular novels, high demand non-fiction, current bestselling titles, mysteries, science fiction, classics and more.

Each month new selections will be rotated in for your listening enjoyment. You can check the latest holdings on Muscat by searching on the keyword “audiobooks.” So check out the latest Grisham, Baldacci or Evanovich; revisit an old favorite like Hemingway; or learn exactly what Freakonomics is all about.